

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A scale comprising:
 - a base supportable on a surface;
 - a measuring mechanism supported by the base and operable to measure a characteristic of an object, the measuring mechanism including a measuring platform on which the object is supportable;
 - an indicator supported by the housing, the indicator being operable to provide feedback to a user relating to a measured characteristic of the object;
 - a housing supported by the base, the housing cooperating with the base to cover at least a portion of the measuring mechanism; and
 - a connecting assembly operable to removably connect the housing to the base.
2. The scale of Claim 1, and further comprising a frame fixed to the base, the measuring mechanism and the indicator being connected to at least one of the frame and to the base as a unit.
3. The scale of Claim 2, wherein the housing is removable from the unit.
4. The scale of Claim 1, wherein the platform is movable relative to the base to measure the characteristic of the object.
5. The scale of Claim 1, wherein the scale has a front, a rear, a bottom, a first side and a second side, wherein the indicator provides at least a portion of the front, wherein the base provides at least a portion of the bottom, and wherein the housing provides at least a portion of the rear, the first side and the second side.
6. The scale of Claim 5, wherein the housing has a rear surface and a forward surface extending forwardly of the rear surface, the forward surface extending from a first edge on the first side to a second edge on the second side, the forward surface being contoured to provide a smooth transition from the first side to the second side.

7. The scale of Claim 1, wherein the connecting assembly includes a first connecting member provided by the base and a second connecting member provided by the housing, the first connecting member and the second connecting member being engageable to releasably connect the housing to the base.

8. The scale of Claim 7, wherein the first connecting member includes a fastener, wherein the second connecting member includes a recess defined by a portion of the housing, the fastener being engageable in the recess to releasably connect the housing to the base.

9. The scale of Claim 1, wherein the housing is formed of a dishwasher safe material.

10. The scale of Claim 1, wherein the base, the measuring mechanism and the indicator are formed at least partially of dishwasher safe materials.

11. A scale comprising:
a housing supportable on a surface;
a measuring mechanism supported by the housing and operable to measure a characteristic of an object, the measuring mechanism including a measuring platform on which the object is supportable;
an indicator supported by the housing, the indicator being operable to provide feedback to a user relating to a measured characteristic of the object, the indicator being movable relative to the housing to provide the feedback; and
a resistance device coupled to at least one of the indicator and the measuring mechanism and operable to resist oscillation of the indicator at least one of during a measurement and after a measurement.

12. The scale of Claim 11, wherein the resistance device provides friction resisting movement of the indicator.

13. The scale of Claim 11, wherein the resistance device provides inertia resisting movement of the indicator.

14. The scale of Claim 11, wherein the resistance device includes a gear coupled to the indicator and operable to resist movement of the indicator.

15. The scale of Claim 14, wherein the indicator includes a pointer pivotably supported by the housing and a rack and pinion assembly connected between the platform and the pointer and operable to communicate movement of the platform to the pointer, the damping gear being in communication with the rack and pinion assembly.

16. The scale of Claim 15, wherein the rack and pinion assembly includes a pinion connected to the pointer for pivoting movement with the pointer and a rack connected to the platform for movement with the platform.

17. The scale of Claim 11, wherein the resistance device is operable to resist oscillation of the indicator during a measurement and does not operate to resist oscillation of the indicator after a measurement.

18. A scale comprising:
a housing supportable on a surface;
a measuring mechanism supported by the housing and operable to measure a characteristic of an object, the measuring mechanism including a measuring platform on which the object is supportable, the platform being movable relative to the housing;
an indicator supported by the housing, the indicator being operable to provide feedback to a user relating to a measured characteristic of the object;
a cylinder supported by the housing; and
a piston connected to the platform for movement with the platform, the piston engaging the cylinder to provide a piston and cylinder assembly, the assembly being operable to resist movement of the platform at least one of during a measurement and after a measurement.

19. The scale of Claim 18, wherein the cylinder defines a chamber, and wherein the scale further comprises a control mechanism operable to control a flow of fluid from the chamber during movement of the piston relative to the cylinder.

20. The scale of Claim 19, wherein the control mechanism includes an opening defined by the cylinder and communicating with the chamber and a control member operable to control the size of the opening.

21. The scale of Claim 20, wherein the control mechanism includes a control actuator engageable by a user to control the size of the opening.

22. The scale of Claim 18, wherein the cylinder defines a chamber, and wherein the scale further comprises a drain operable to remove contaminants from the chamber.

23. The scale of Claim 18, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the piston and the cylinder is formed of Delrin®.

24. The scale of Claim 23, wherein the cylinder is formed of Delrin®.

25. The scale of Claim 23, wherein at least a portion of the piston is formed of Delrin®.

26. The scale of Claim 25, wherein the piston includes a head engageable in the cylinder and a plunger connected between the head and the platform, the plunger being formed at least partially of Delrin®.

27. The scale of Claim 26, wherein the head is formed of graphite.